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Letter dated 2 October 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report on the international security force in Kosovo during the period from 1 to 31 August 2002.

I should be grateful if you would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

[Original: English]

Monthly report to the United Nations on operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 August 2002), there were just over 32,600 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during August remained generally stable.

Security

3. During August, there were no direct attacks on KFOR personnel. On 2 August, a grenade was thrown into a nightclub in Urosevac, injuring two people.

4. The number of demonstrations by Kosovar Albanians in the province increased, with numerous protests against actions taken by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in relation to former leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK), Rustem Mustafa[a] and the Haradinaj brothers. As a result of the growing number of demonstrations, KFOR riot control forces stood ready to support UNMIK police and, on 14 August, were deployed in Decane.

5. KFOR continued to carry out Kosovo-wide search operations in its campaign against weapons smuggling and any activity of ethnic Albanian armed groups. Weapons and ammunition were seized on a daily basis. Items confiscated for the month included 170 weapons, 7,412 grenades and mines; and 17,276 rounds of ammunition. A significant amount of the ammunition was discovered in a cache of some 800 grenades found near Bitinja in the Kacanik municipality, a major logistics route for operations of the National Liberation Army (NLA) in Kumanovo during 2001, and in another cache of more than 6,000 grenades discovered near the village of Goles, south-west of Pristina.

6. On 8 August, KFOR carried out an operation in a number of settlements in eastern Kosovo[b] in search of suspected members of ethnic Albanian armed groups. Nineteen people were arrested. On 12 August, an operation was carried out near Pristina leading to the arrest and detention of individuals with potential links to the so-called "Republican Army of Ilyrida" (ARI).

Border/boundary security

7. The number of illegal border crossing incidents increased in August. Fifty-one people were arrested, and were handed over to UNMIK police. Over one half of those arrested were Albanian nationals attempting to cross into Kosovo.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

8. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), there were 22 cases of non-compliance reported during the period under review, involving 28 KPC members. Although most of the cases involved minor offences in contravention of the KPC disciplinary code, two zone commanders, including Rustem Mustafa, are under investigation for offences against UNMIK and the police services. At the end of August, 77 cases of non-compliance remained open.

9. KFOR continues to provide training courses for KPC units and 14 such courses were completed during the reporting period.

10. The number of weapons destroyed under the weapons destruction programme during the reporting period was 7,568.

11. Security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continue to remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Military Technical Agreement.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. KFOR continues to provide assistance, on request, to international organizations and non-governmental organizations working throughout Kosovo, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

13. Within the framework of the KFOR/UNMIK transitional strategy, KFOR handed over responsibility for railway passenger safety to UNMIK. The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) is now responsible for security on board the trains, and UNMIK police provide security at train stations. KFOR will provide support if requested, but within available means and capabilities.

14. On 28 August, KFOR provided support to UNMIK police in a search for a prisoner who had escaped from the Dubrava prison. During the operation, the prisoner fired at DFOR soldiers near Stimlje (south-west of Pristina).

15. KFOR also provided support to a KPS patrol and three Kosovar Serbs who came under fire in the Gorazdvac Kosovar Serb enclave. A KFOR quick reaction force was deployed to the area and was able to extract safely the KPS patrol and the three Kosovar Serbs. In a follow-up operation, a Kosovar Albanian was detained and handed over to UNMIK police.

16. KFOR will provide support in the framework of the municipal elections during the period 10 September to 24 October 2002, by providing officers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with updated threat assessment information; detaching liaison officers to regional joint election operations centres; providing escorts for political party representatives and observers when deemed necessary; and participating in the political violence group and in the joint OSCE/UNMIK police/KFOR tally assessments.

17. Following the agreement reached on 7 August between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Michael Steiner, and Nebojsa Covic[c] to integrate 150 Kosovar Serbs into the Kosovo Police Service School, the first group of former "bridge watchers" whose applications were successful was due to begin a 15-week training course at the beginning of September.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

18. On 14 August, the return implementation group decided to continue the planned return of 42 families to the villages of Bica, Grabac and Drenovcic (north of Klina), despite fears expressed in the neighbouring Kosovar Albanian communities about the possible return of suspected criminals to Kosovo. So far, 1,462 displaced persons have returned to Kosovo since the beginning of 2002.

Outlook

19. The security situation in Kosovo is expected to continue to be stable.

Notes

[a] Rustem Mustafa (a former regional commander of UCK) was commander of regional task group 6 in Gnjilane until his suspension from the Kosovo Protection Corps in July 2001. He was arrested on 11 August, and remains in detention.

[b] Balance, Rakaj, Deneral Jankovic, Dimca, Dramnjak, Dardani, Zlatare, Gnjilane, Drobes, Goden, Zegra and Uglare.

[c] Chief of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo, and Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia.